

Approved: Carl Dean Holmes
Date 2-21-94

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Walker Hendrix at 3:30 p.m. on February 15, 1994 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Carl Holmes - Excused
Representative Lawrence - Excused
Representative McKinney - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Shirley Wilds, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Elizabeth Baker, Derby Tree Board
K. O. LaVergne, Mayor of Derby, Derby KS
Kathy Richards, Wakeeney Tree Board, Wakeeney KS
Art Brown, KS Lumber Dealers
Larry Bitts, West Main Landscaping, Chanute KS
Bob Haines, Dept of Parks and Recreation, Overland Park KS
Steve Frazier, Dept of Parks and Recreation, Liberal KS
Alan Geier, Dept of Parks and Recreation, Garden City KS
Neal Berry, Dept of Parks and Recreation, Dodge City, KS
Ray Aslin, State Forestry, Manhattan KS
Charles Warren, President, Kansas Inc
Darrel Montai, Dept of Wildlife and Parks
George Osborne, Supt. Parks & Forestry, Lawrence KS
Carl Smith, City of Auburn
Don Low, KS Corporation Commission

Others attending: See attached list

Vice Chairperson Walker Hendrix called the meeting to order, acknowledging his appreciation for the distances some conferees have traveled to testify at today's hearing.

Hearing on HB 2732:

Elizabeth Baker. Ms. Baker began by referring to written testimony she dispersed to Committee members from Tim Martz, Superintendent, Landscape and Forestry. (See Attachment #1). She then introduced guest, Mr. Chuck Evanhoe, Director of the South Central Kansas Urban Forestry Council. She then introduced K. O. LaVergne, Mayor of Derby, Kansas, announcing that he would present testimony on **HB 2732**.

K. O. LaVergne. (See Attachment #2) Mayor LaVergne said he believes this legislation sends a strong message to communities throughout the state as to the importance of urban reforestation programs. Elaborating on the benefits of enacting **HB 2732**, Mr. LaVergne reported that while America the Beautiful program was inspirational (having a goal of planting one billion trees per year), the tree removal/planting statistics were alarming. He said early last spring several of their community members formed a public-private partnership. This new body has pledged a commitment for a new level of dedication and spirit of cooperation among all units of government and civic organizations. The first steps included the formation of a City Tree Board and the passing of a tree ordinance. Also, the Derby Community Foundation was formed to design a system providing an environmentally sound lifestyle for their citizens. These two organizations now work closely with the Chamber of Commerce. The public-private partnership works with a company formed to help develop projects such as theirs (Natural Treesource, Inc.) to accomplish the mission of America the Beautiful. The organizations' goal in Derby is to plant 10,000 new trees in the coming months. The Community Foundation's goal is to raise \$1.5 to \$2.0 million dollars to implement this project.

Mr. LaVergne said they are contracting with the Center for Urban Studies and the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University to develop and carry out research defining and tracking the benefits of urban forests in a community.

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MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on February 15, 1994.

The Honorable LaVergne concluded by recognizing the fiscal constraints placed on all facets of government, but believes **HB 2732** is resourceful in its approach to urban reforestation. He would recommend one amendment that would require a larger investment of community resources and a greater level of community commitment. The amendment would require communities to provide matching funds in order to receive the grant.

Kathy Richards. (See Attachment #3) Ms. Richards reported that in the past few years her city has taken on a tremendous effort to do extensive tree planting with limited funds and volunteer groups. She said in 1991 Western Kansas had an early frost killing (or severely damaging) over fifty percent of their local tree population. They are now in the process of replenishing their lost tree stock. With this legislation she stated it could provide major assistance to their program, taking some of their at-risk programs and making them active again. The grant money would not only provide the trees, but would help the environment and ecosystem; create beauty; and provide economic development. All these factors, she added, are a benefit to everyone and a gift for future generations.

Art Brown. (See Attachment #4) Mr. Brown said that with the grant funds for Tree City USA coming from the state economic initiative fund, he could not think of a better place from which to fund the program. He said there is no downside to the environment in **HB 2732**. He added it can create jobs, be an environmental teacher for the youth within the communities, and upgrades the appearance and value of property. He heartily encouraged the Committee to pass this legislation favorably.

Larry Bitts. (See Attachment #5) Mr. Bitts introduced three guests that accompanied him to today's meeting, stating they share his interest in the subject matter. They are: Clarence Brown; Bob Andrews; and Al Goering.

Mr. Bitts is a small business owner in support of this bill. He was awarded a contract in 1993 to plant and maintain a sizable number of trees in their Industrial Park. He said that not only will the trees help beautify their city of Chanute, but the monetary gain in his business will be returned within his community seven more times, (utilizing other local resources and businesses, i.e. gasoline, insurance, supplies and household living expenses). He added that many of the trees used in tree planting projects are grown in Kansas, helping the state's economy.

Mr. Bitts urged passage of **HB 2732**.

Bob Haines. (See Attachment #6) Mr. Haines said the funds in this bill would represent up to 30,000 new trees in Northeast Kansas and provide an important incentive for towns to achieve and maintain the Tree City USA designation. In addition, the various business who sell, contract for, landscape, etc. would reap benefits. Ultimately the real beneficiaries of all the rewards from the trees as they grow into mature specimens are the citizens of the Tree Cities.

Mr. Haines said the Northeast District Kansas Urban Forestry Council (a statewide volunteer non-profit organization) has over 95 members representing 32 Tree City USA's and currently nine towns. Their mission is to generate understanding of trees and promote exemplary community forestry practices. He speculates that an annual grant of \$5,000 may encourage achievement of Tree City USA. With the passage of **HB 2732** more projects can be implemented and it will directly help his organization to spread the word of the importance of trees to our environment and citizens can reap the ultimate benefits. Mr. Haines introduced Mr. Osborne from Lawrence.

George C. Osborne. (See Attachment #7) In this bill everyone benefits. In Lawrence, Mr. Osborne reported that a grant of \$5,000 would increase their ability to purchase trees between 8-12%. Since 80% of their tree purchases are from Kansas growers, 12% goes directly into the Kansas economy.

Mr. Osborne maintains that public trees are the one amenity that increases in value as it ages. Trees promote a sense of calm and well being. He urged the Committee to pass this bill.

Carl Smith. Mr. Smith is a retired resident from the City of Auburn. He said his primary interest in this project and bill is simply that he has enjoyed a great deal in his life and our environment obviously played a part in this enjoyment. He reported that he would like now to "give something back to the community, the town and the state." He shares the philosophy of the Northeast Forestry Council and as a volunteer is willing to continue to offer his services to the effort. He would like to see favorable passage of this legislation.

Mr. Haines introduced colleagues Patty Armstrong and Becky Eating, Community Chairpersons of the Kansas Urban Forestry Council, and Paul Cole, State Council Representative and the recipient of the 1993 Arbor Day Foundation Joyce Kilmer Award.

Also, in the interest of time, he introduced colleagues who chose to hand out written testimony rather than personally testify. They are:

Terry Bertels. (See Attachment #8)

J. David Mattox. Forestry Supervisor, City of Manhattan. (See Attachment #9)

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MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on February 15, 1994.

Steve Frazier. (See Attachment #10) In October 1991, Mr. Frazier reported that Liberal lost approximately 20-25% of their shade tree population. Their replacement has been ongoing since that time, but cannot match the shade lost from the original mature ones.

With the Economic Development Fund, Mr. Frazier feels that Kansas will become more comfortable for its residents and be more appealing to those travelers visiting through the state. Some companies may be enticed to locate in Kansas communities due to the enhanced beauty attributed to tree planting. In addition he said this will encourage non Tree City communities to become participants.

Alan Geier. (See Attachment #11) Southwest Kansans are appreciative of the few trees they have, and consider them valuable to their area. Mr. Geier reported that Garden City has the distinction of being in the Tree City USA program as a charter member for 16 years. He said one of their urban forestry goals is to help the smaller communities become Tree City USAs. The Great Plains region suffered a devastating tree loss in October 1991. Since that time the City of Garden City has put forth their efforts and tax money into the removal of the dead trees on public lands and the street thoroughfares. In the spring of 1992, 633 trees were marked for removal (another 100 trees were dead on the USD 457 school properties). Also, the majority of elms on the city private lands that died were 50 to 70 years old.

Mr. Geier reported that a recent marketing report prepared for the Finney County Economic Development Corporation regarding the feasibility of some factory outlets stores locating on a main area in Garden City, appears to be favorable. One of the factors that attracted the consultants was the recent planting of 75 trees on Main Street.

A last point - Mr. Geier noted that he will not reap the benefits of passage of this legislation, but it is a legacy for his children and grandchildren.

Neal Berry. (See Attachment #12) Speaking personally and on behalf of Dave Penka, as representatives of City of Dodge City and Dodge City Shade Tree Commission, Mr. Berry expressed support for **HB 2732**. An estimate of an inventory taken in 1991, the Dodge City Shade Tree Commission identified 7,535 trees within their park system valued at \$1.5 million. Since the 1991 freeze, Dodge City conducted a survey of its parks and of the city as a whole, and determined that Dodge City lost approximately \$15.6 million in tree value. The added removal cost of all these trees leaves few funds available for replanting.

Citing the various attributes aforementioned by conferees, Mr. Berry commended Representative Alldritt for sponsoring **HB 2732**.

Raymond G. Aslin. (See Attachment #13) Presenting from a neutral stance, Mr. Aslin provided information regarding the State and Extension Forestry's experience with grant/cost share programs to communities in tree planting and the impact on his agency. He reported their agency discovered that financial support in the form of cost-share monies is the incentive many communities need to implement needed tree projects.

For three years, State and Extension Forestry administered a cost-share program of \$25,000 per year to communities, requiring a 50% local match. This project was funded in 34 communities. Over \$124,000 of local support was leveraged. (Due to budget constraints in FY 1994 this cost-share program was eliminated.) In 1991 State and Extension Forestry administered to the Small Business Administration Tree Planting Program. They have awarded over \$579,000 over the past four years in direct cost-share monies for projects in 71 communities, without any of the monies being used to administer the program. In turn, each community provided a minimum of 45% local match.

Mr. Aslin said they have learned through their extensive experience in administering these programs how to administer on a cost-effective, efficient basis. He added, however, because of increased demands on his staff to conduct mandated programs by both the state and federal agencies they will need to hire a staff person to administer the programs. The cost would be \$46,150, used for staffing, secretarial support, operation and travel.

Charles Warren. Speaking as an opponent of this legislation, Mr. Warren said his organization is responsible for economic development and planning policy and research evaluation. He finds this legislation to be objectionable, particularly on Page 4 Section 2 9 (h), lines 20 through 23, regarding the demand transfer. He said demand transfers are put into place without benefit of yearly review, but rather is perpetually enacted. He emphasized the dynamics of this bill is not economic development. He said there currently is not enough funds to support other needed programs, i.e. business financing, business assistance, job training, etc.

Mr. Warren said Kansas Inc does an annual report on the distribution of community and economic development grants and loans, collecting information from each agency regarding their state distribution. He will provide the Committee a copy of this report.

Darrel Montai. Mr. Montai reported his Department supports the concept of **HB 2732**, stating it would be a valuable commitment to urban and wildlife, thereby making it important to people. Working on other programs among communities around the state, he said the Department can provide technical assistance with the various planting efforts whenever requested.

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MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on February 15, 1994.

Chris McKenzie. (See Attachment #14) Mr. McKenzie considers this bill to have the most dramatic effect of any other legislation debated this year. Although the funds for this program are not great, he said it moves us in the right direction for improving the liveability and prospects for economic development in our cities. He recommends favorable passage of **HB 2732**.

Hearing on HB 2979:

Don Low: (See Attachment 15) Mr. Low said this bill was requested by the Commission to clarify their authority regarding activities that might be undertaken jointly with other state or federal regulatory bodies. He said there has been national discussion of the desirability of regional regulation of electric utilities, especially with regard to transmission issues. More immediate possibilities relate to cooperative investigations with the Missouri Commission. If the KCC adopts integrated Resource Planning rules, some coordination of efforts between the two commission with regard to the utilities regulated by both will be desirable. By clarifying statutory language, he said it will help avoid procedural questions.

Mr. Low concluded by reporting this bill will have no adverse fiscal impact; in fact.

Letter from LaRue Christy, Mayor of Anthony and others (See Attachment #16)

Written testimony from Karen Younce (See Attachment #17)

Written testimony from Clarence Brown (See Attachment #18)

List of Kansas Tree City USA Towns 1993 (See Attachment #19)

Upon completion of its business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 1994.



GUEST LIST

Committee: Energy and Natural Resources

Date: 2/15/94

NAME: (Please print)	Address:	Company/Organization:
Rose Allison Smith	9028 SW 89th ⁶⁶⁴⁰² Auburn, KS	Sch. Dist. #437
Carl W. Smith	" " "	NORTH EAST KANSAS URBAN FOREST COUNCIL
Al Goering	623 Church ^{Neodesha} ⁶⁶⁷⁵⁷ Neodesha, KS	SE KANSAS FORESTRY COUNCIL
Bob Andrews	3631 Dirt ^{PERSONS} 67357	S.E.K Forestry Council
Clarence E Brown	4 Comm. Oswego ^{KS}	SEK Forestry Council
Larry Bitts	701 W Main ^{Chanute} ^{KS} Chanute	West Main Landscaping
Kathy Richards	217 12th ^{Wichita} ^{KS} Wichita	North West Urban Forestry Council Wichita Tree Board
Joe Richards	" " "	" "
Bruce Graham	Topeka	KEPCO
Ray Ashin	2610 Claflin Road.	KANSAS STATE AND EXTENSION FORESTRY
Alan Geier	Box 499 ^{Garden City}	S.W.K. Forestry
Neal Berry	P.O. Box 880 Dodge City	City of Dodge City
David Penka	1712 Pioneer Rd. D.C. KS	City of Dodge City
Steve Frazier	P.O. Box 2199 Liberal, KS	City of Liberal/SWFC
Terry Bertels	201 NW TOPEKA BLVD ^{Topeka} ⁶⁶⁶⁰³ Topeka	CITY OF TOPEKA
Patti Armstrong	12036 - W 239th ^{of} ^{Blue Hills} ^{KS} Blue Hills - KS	U. Chapin KWP
J. DAVID MATTOX	1101 FREMONT MANHATTAN KS 66502	CITY OF MANHATTAN NE KS URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
George C Osborne	530 LOUISIANA ^{Lawrence} ⁶⁶⁰⁴⁴ Lawrence	CITY OF LAWRENCE PO Box 708 66044
END Feeding	2524 SW Brandwine Ln ^{Topeka}	Kansas Urban Forestry Council Kansas Arborists Association
PAUL C. COLE	9122 W 73rd ^{Merriam} ⁶⁶²⁰⁴ Merriam	Merriam Tree Board
Bob HAINES	8500 SANTA FE OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212	KANSAS URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM CITY OF OVERLAND PARK
Tricia R. Sears	Topeka	Kansas Audubon Council
Bill Craven	Topeka	Sevin
Darrell Monte	PRATT	KDWP
J.C. LONG	Topeka	UCU

THE CITY OF WICHITA

PARK AND RECREATION
CITY HALL — ELEVENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 268-4361

February 15, 1994

The Honorable Carl Holmes, Chairperson
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

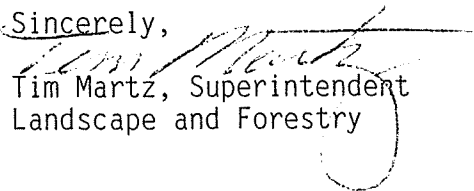
Dear Mr. Holmes:

I am writing to request your favorable action on House Bill No. 2732.

Wichita has earned the honor of TREE CITY USA from 1986 through 1993. The \$5,000 annual grant that this bill would provide would be used to enhance and supplement tree planting projects within the community. We are losing over 2,000 public trees each year as a result of disease, drought, insects, utility conflicts and storms. Replacement is not keeping pace with removals. Maintaining a healthy, attractive and diverse tree canopy is crucial for the liveability of Wichitans and others throughout the state.

The scope and condition of a communities trees gives the first impression to visitors. Trees will enhance economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists. Dollars invested back into our communities from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund is long term visionary action which can make a difference.

Sincerely,


Tim Martz, Superintendent
Landscape and Forestry

TRM:mkh

Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #1
2/15/94



February 15, 1994

To: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

From: Mayor K.O. LaVergne, Derby, Ks. and the Derby Tree Board

Re: House Bill 2732

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in support of HB 2732. We believe that this proposed legislation sends a strong message to communities across our state as to the importance of urban reforestation programs. For just a moment, I'd like to share with you the vision of our small community and discuss the benefits of enacting HB 2732.

In 1991, then President George Bush initiated America the Beautiful, a National Tree Planting Initiative with the goal of reforestation of our nation. The goal is to plant one billion trees per year. One component is the Urban Forest Program with a goal of planting thirty million trees per year in communities across the country. Presently, the national community average is to remove four trees and plant one as replacement. While the America the Beautiful program was inspirational, the tree removal/planting statistics were alarming.

It has been repeatedly voiced by leaders in our community that reforestation projects were not just desirable, but necessary if we are to provide an environmentally secure community for our children and our grandchildren. Early last spring a number of our community members began visiting and sharing concerns in regard to the importance of urban reforestation. Over the past year we have developed a vision for our community that calls for a new level of commitment and a strong spirit of cooperation between all units of government and civic organizations. In order to make our vision become a reality, Derby formed a public-private partnership that we believe is unique to Sedgwick County and to the state of Kansas.

Our first steps included the formation of a City Tree Board and the passing of a tree ordinance. A group of community leaders have formed the Derby Community Foundation which is dedicated to providing an environmentally sound lifestyle for our people. Contracting services with the Derby Chamber of Commerce, the Derby Community Foundation has formed a public-private partnership with

City of Derby

611 Mulberry • Derby, Ks 67037 • 316/788-1519 • Fax 316/788-6067

Energy & Natural Resources
attached #2
2/15/94

Natural Treesource Inc., a company formed to help develop projects such as ours to accomplish the mission of America The Beautiful. Natural Treesource has received a grant from the United States' Forest Service to develop a model community program that is successful and can be replicated across the country. Derby has developed and initiated a project to re-forest the entire community. Our goal is to plant 10,000 new trees in the coming months. The trees are not to be merely seedlings, but will be an average 2" caliper balled and burlapped trees for the deciduous trees and 5 to 7 feet for the evergreens. The Community Foundation's goal is to raise 1.5 to 2.0 million dollars to successfully implement this project. While many volunteer projects have developed across the country, we believe this is the first community wide project with the goal to re-forest the entire community.

The benefits resulting from this program include the environment, energy savings, economic and social benefits, soil and water, wildlife habitat, etc. We are contracting with the Center for Urban Studies and the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University, to develop and carry out a research project which will define and track the benefits of urban forests in a community. One of the goals of the United States Forest Service is to demonstrate urban forest values in specific and measurable terms resulting in communities viewing the urban forest as an essential component of the community infrastructure.

As a military retiree, as Mayor of Derby and more importantly, as a Kansas taxpayer, I understand the fiscal constraints placed on all units of government. I recognize the public's constant outcry for increased services and decreased taxes. Innovative approaches to problem solving must be initiated at the state and local levels of government. We believe that HB 2732 is resourceful in its approach to urban reforestation, but we would recommend an amendment that would require a larger investment of community resources and a greater level of community commitment. The amendment would require communities to provide matching funds in order to receive the grant. With this amendment, the goals of investment and commitment are accomplished.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share our community's commitment to urban reforestation. Positive action on HB 2732 would be advantageous to all Kansas' communities. We encourage the inclusion of our suggested amendment and your strong support of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



K.O. LaVergne, Mayor
Derby, Kansas

KEENEY



K A N S A S

(913) 743-5791

CITY OF WAKEENEY

408 Russell Ave.
P.O. Box 185
WaKeeney, Kansas 67672

Kenneth Deutscher, Mayor
Merl Page, City Administrator/Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
Danny Flax
Bob Funk
Harold Gibson
Galen Olson
Greg Trostad

David Harding, City Attorney

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

From: Kathleen Richards, WaKeeney Tree Board, WaKeeney, Kansas

Subject: HB 2732 - Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting Grant Program

Living in Western Kansas can seem barren to anyone living in an area where trees are abundant, lush and easy to grow. In the past few years our city has taken on a tremendous effort to do extensive tree planting with limited funds and volunteer help. Goals of shady parks, tree lined entrances to the community, and elegant street trees, have all been on our Tree Board Agenda; however without funding these goals may become dreams.

In October of 1991 Western Kansas had an early frost which killed or severely damaged over 50% of our local tree population. By spring of 1992 the damage was apparent and removal of dead trees began, but most of the removal came in the summer of 1993. All the gains our committee had made over the years were lost, and we are now struggling to replenish our tree stock with several species of trees recommended by the Urban Forestry Council.

This legislation can provide major assistance to our Tree City USA program. Our community, like many small communities, has very little funding that goes to the planting of trees. Many of our ambitions and objectives will be attainable with extra funding. It can take some of our at risk programs and make them active once again, furthermore; it may encourage many other communities to become Tree City USA participants.

There are many positive aspects to receiving this grant money. Not only do trees get planted, which help our environment and ecosystem, our communities get beautified. There are also economic development advantages. Supporting the nurseries through purchases, and using tree care industries in the upkeep, are vital factors in this plan, because through these investments, jobs are created. Also, if a community is attractive it is more likely to get the interest of new business. Quality of life is among the top ten reasons why sites are selected for new business placements.

Planting a tree is a positive action for the environment in which everyone benefits. Trees in our rural areas and towns provide many environmental advantages. Also, planting trees is an expression of optimism for the future. By planting trees we are showing our confidence in our future and that of future generations. We all enjoy the benefits of trees planted by someone before us. The trees we plant are a gift for future generations.

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #2*

2/15/94



800 WESTPORT ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111-3198
816/931-2102 FAX 816/931-4617

MID-AMERICA LUMBERMENS ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

House Bill #2732

Rm: 526-S

February 15, 1994

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Energy and Natural Resource committee, it is my pleasure to appear before you today as a proponent of House Bill #2732. My name is Art Brown, and I represent the Retail Lumber and Building Material Dealers in the state of Kansas.

I would absolutely be remiss in my responsibilities to my industry by not appearing before you today. My appearance is more as a representative of the building material industry as a whole, rather than the retail dealers in specific.

This bill, as noted on page 2, lines 9 thru 27, creates an urban forestry program, by having certain municipalities meet certain criteria, outlined in the bill from lines 11 thru 13. By meeting this criteria, the state then would award a \$5,000 grant to the applying entity, and with the grant comes the designation, tree city, USA. The funding for these grants would come from the state economic initiative fund, and we could not think of a better place from which this program should be funded. To be against this bill, and its benefits, would be tantamount to telling your constituents that you feel it is a good idea to be soft on crime. Everyone of us, on a daily basis, is being exposed to the actions and attitudes our behavior has on the environment as a people and a society. Simply stated, there is no downside to the environment in this bill. Urban forestry is a job creator for the participating community, it is a teacher of the environment to the youth of the participating community, it upgrades the appearance and value of the property in these communities, as well as going hand-in-hand with the conservation efforts and providing an intangible and positive benefit for those areas who have such an urban forestry program. Both in the short and long term, this program is a job creator for the communities involved. This is good economic development policy, as well as promoting a most valuable natural resource in the state of Kansas. You will notice that there is a \$2.00 per capita appropriation from the cities applying for this grant. This type of philosophy where a community actually



FEDERATED WITH THE NATIONAL LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Energy and Natural Resources
Attachment #4
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has an investment in place for such a program, we feel, will result in the wise dissemination of funding of the grant money they would receive. It is an old, but proven adage, that if you have some of your own money invested in an endeavor, you will see that the endeavor is successful.

Another of the criteria for this grant is establishment of a tree planting program. It is not just the planting of trees that create jobs. The planning of such an effort, and the long-term maintenance of such a program, come into play as well. Not only does the community come out with short-term and long-term job creation, as stated earlier in my testimony, but they also benefit from the beauty and ambiance that only trees seem to bring to a community. Look at your community, or more to the point, your own residence, to see what we mean by that statement. It is just something you cannot put a monetary value on.

I wish to close with a story. All of us heard about the Los Angeles riots. The U.S.D.A. (United States Department of Agriculture) went into the south Los Angeles area with a restoration program for the impacted area of the riots that included a urban forestry program. Included with that program was an out-of-state venture to build firebreaks in heavily forested areas, so that the youth in that area would have a better understanding of trees, the forest and the environment. For those of you who do not know what a firebreak is, try the word "ditch," as in a big, long, deep one. Of the urban restoration projects that took place to rejuvenate this blighted area, studies showed this one was easily the most successful and enjoyable. Remember, this is in Los Angeles, not in the forest. Does this mean another benefit to the bill is that it would help prevent crime? We won't go that far, but you can at least muse the possibility! This is one of those bills that you have a chance to feel good about, not only for your community, or for yourself, but for the state of Kansas as a whole. It is a "win-win," bill, and we heartily encourage you as a committee to pass it out favorably.

I will be glad to answer any questions you have, and thank you for the opportunity to address you on this matter today.

ERL
4-2

WEST MAIN LANDSCAPING
Larry Bitts
701 W. Main
Chanute, KS 66720
(316) 431-3554

February 15, 1994

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

FROM: West Main Landscaping
Larry Bitts, owner

SUBJECT: HB 2732- Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting
Grant Program

As a small business owner, I support House Bill 2732. I was awarded a contract in 1993 to plant, and maintain for 3 years, 60 trees at our Industrial Park in Chanute. Not only will the trees help beautify our town, the money I receive from the project will be used for gasoline, insurance, supplies, and household living expenses. Each dollar I spend with Chanute business will be used seven more times, helping to keep a strong economy.

Planting the 60 trees in the area was a catch-on idea for other industries, as well. I have since sold 65 more trees to be planted this spring, further stimulating the economy and beautifying our town.

Another advantage of the grant program is that communities can be assured professional people from the green industry are used to plant the trees. Planting and maintenance of trees requires good observation skills, an understanding of tree growth, and a small amount of time.

Many of the trees used in tree planting projects are grown in Kansas, which helps the state's economy.

In closing, I urge you to pass House Bill 2732. Not only will this help stimulate the green industry economy, but the economy of the state in general. The trees planted will help make our great state more beautiful and a better place to live.

Larry Bitts

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #5
2/15/94*



Kansas
Urban
Forestry

C O U N C I L

2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

DATE: February 15, 1994

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

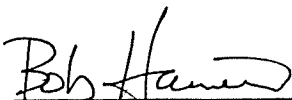
FROM: Kansas Urban Forestry Council
Bob Haines, Chairperson

SUBJECT: HB 2732 - Relating To Tree City USA Tree Planting Grant Program

As Chairperson of the Northeast District of the Kansas Urban Forestry Council, I would like to ask for your support of House Bill 2732. These funds would represent up to 30,000 new trees in Northeast Kansas and provide an important incentive for towns to achieve and maintain the Tree City USA designation. In addition, local nurserymen, landscape contractors, and other small businesses would benefit from the purchase, planting and maintenance of these new trees. Lastly, the citizens of these Tree Cities would represent the real beneficiaries of all of the rewards from these trees as they grow into mature specimens.

The Kansas Urban Forestry Council is a statewide grassroots volunteer organization and has recently become a non-profit corporation. The Northeast District has over 95 members representing 32 Tree City USA's and currently 9 program towns. Our mission is to generate greater understanding of trees and promote exemplary community forestry practices through local partnerships, education and information sharing with municipalities, private citizens, nurseryman, arborists and other civic organizations. One way to accomplish these goals is to encourage achievement of the Tree City USA designation. An annual grant of \$5,000.00 may provide the final stimulus for cities working toward their first Tree City USA Award. Existing Tree Cities already show a commitment to conscientious community forestry with all of the requirements they must meet. Yet, as we all know, budgets are getting tighter everyday and current Tree Cities, feeling these pressures, can hang their hat on these new funds to justify maintaining their status.

In conclusion, the importance of trees in the urban environment both economically and aesthetically is well documented. Getting the word out is what the Kansas Urban Forestry Council is all about. There is no better way to do this than through a hands-on, back-bending, dirt under-the fingernails tree planting project. Bill 2732 will allow many more of these projects. It will help us spread the word of the importance of trees in our environment and allow more businesses, more towns, and more people to plant needed trees and reap the benefits from them.


Bob Haines
City Forester

BH/rj

Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #6

2/15/94



KANSAS URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

The Kansas Urban Forestry Council is a statewide grassroots volunteer organization. Its members are committed to expanding, improving and preserving our state's urban tree resources.

Established in the Fall of 1990 with five District Councils, presently the Council's have more than 250 volunteer members.

The primary purpose of the District Councils is to promote exemplary urban forestry practices and policies. Each one takes on local tree-related projects that best represent the Council's goals, needs and resources.

Council projects impact municipalities, private citizens, arborists, nursery growers, businesses, civic organizations, local governments and schools.

Council Projects

- Educating public leaders, private citizens and media personnel about urban forestry issues is a priority for all Councils.
- Conducting regional Tree Care Workshops. Planned and facilitated by Council members, the workshops will provide in-depth technical assistance to approximately 100 participants in each District.
- Instituting regional seminars on initiating and improving local community tree programs and planning a statewide conference on wastewood composting and recycling.
- Initiating Tree Rebate Programs. Citizens purchasing "Preferred Trees" from participating nurseries will be eligible for cash rebates.

Past Accomplishments

- Regional lists of "Preferred Trees" for urban plantings were developed by each Council.
- Tree care tags providing the buyer with basic information on how to care for their trees were distributed to cooperating nurseries.
- "How to Hire an Arborist" door hanger tags were designed and produced. More than 25,000 tags were distributed in communities across Kansas where severe weather had caused extensive tree damage.
- A "Tree Planting and Care" booklet describing how to plant a tree and care for it during the critical 3-5 year establishment period was produced and distributed.

Membership

The Kansas Urban Forestry Council is comprised of citizens like yourself who have an interest in enhancing their community's natural environment. Present Council representation includes, but is not limited to, tree board members, county extension agents, arborists, nursery owners, environmental educators, realtors, city foresters, park superintendents, landscape architects, and government employees. There are no fees involved with Council membership. All Kansas citizens are eligible to become members.

How to Get Involved

To find out more about the Kansas Urban Forestry Council, please contact the Chair of the District Council in your area. Inquire about when and where the next meeting will be held. Then make plans to attend. If you cannot reach the Council Chair, contact the Statewide Coordinator. Names and addresses appear with the map on the back of this brochure.

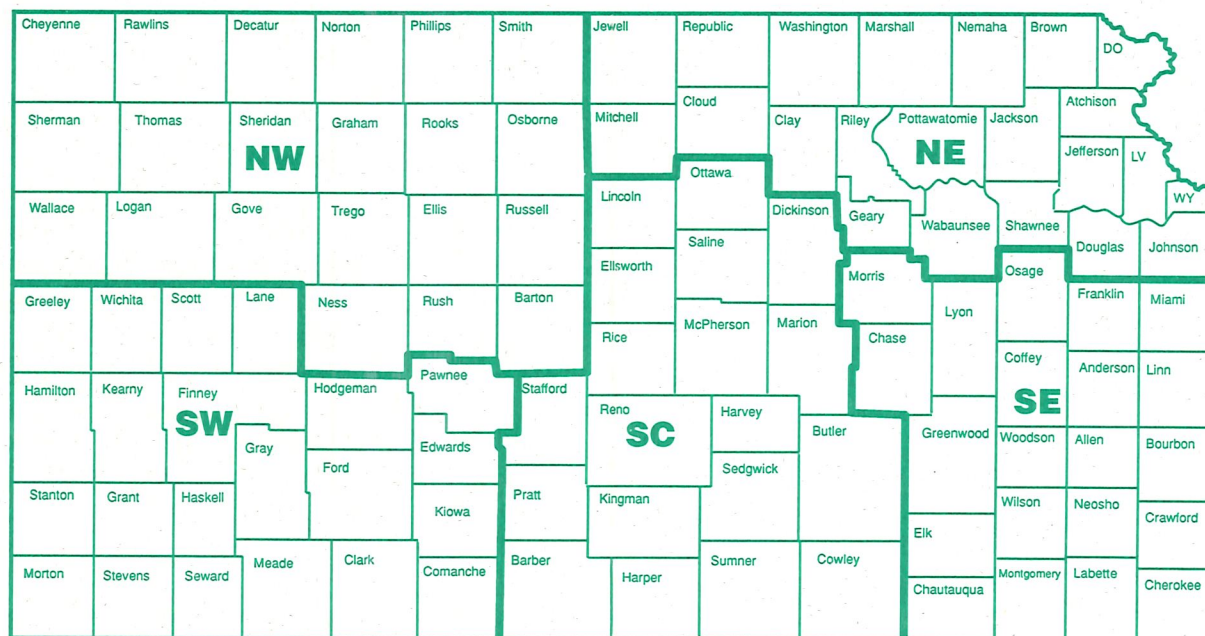


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6-2

KANSAS URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

The Kansas Urban Forestry Council is divided into five Districts. Each Council meets bimonthly in a central location. These two hour meetings are held on week-day evenings.

Each of the five District Councils operates independently in promoting and accomplishing self-determined projects that expand urban forestry efforts in the State of Kansas.



Statewide Coordinator
Michelle Mazzola
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
913/537-7050 (W)

Southwest District
Alan Geier, Chair
P.O. Box 499
Garden City, KS 67846
316/276-1250 (W)

South Central District
David Foster, Chair
1415 E. 2nd
Wichita, KS 67214
316/262-4525 (W)
316/263-4527 (H)

Southeast District
Larry Bitts, Chair
701 W. Main
Chanute, KS 66720
316/431-3554 (H)

Northwest District
John Shaver, Chair
P.O. Box 490
Hays, KS 67601
913/625-2615 (W)
913/625-7518 (H)

Northeast District
Ed Geeding, Chair
2524 SW Brandywine
Topeka, KS 66614
913/273-2862 (H)

KANSAS URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL



*Expanding, Improving
and Preserving*

Kansas' Urban Tree Resource

6-3



City of Lawrence KANSAS

CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR

JOHN HALBANDIAN

COMMISSIONERS

JOLENE ANDERSEN

DOUG COMPTON

BOB MOODY

ROBERT C. SCHULTE

MIKE WILDGEN, CITY MANAGER

CITY OFFICES

6 EAST 6th

BOX 708

66044-0708

913-832-3000

TDD 913-832-3205

FAX 913-832-3405

February 15, 1994

T: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

From: George C. Osborne
Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
Parks and Recreation Department
City of Lawrence, Box 708, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Subject: HB 2732--Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting Grant
Program

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is in support of passage of House Bill 2732 sub paragraph (p) "to establish an urban forestry program to administer grants to Tree City USA communities." In this bill, everyone benefits.

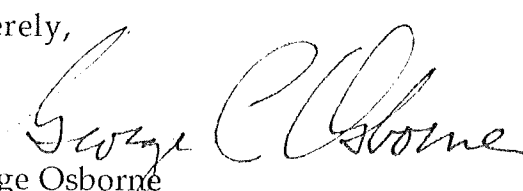
In the case of Lawrence, a grant of \$5000 as stated in the bill, would increase our ability to purchase trees between 8-12%. Since 80% of our tree purchases are from Kansas growers, that 12% goes directly into the Kansas economy.

Many Kansas communities would benefit even more. As we say on the farm, "This would prime the pump."

How far does \$5000 go? At \$100 per 2" caliper tree and 22 trees per city block, 2.25 city blocks could be planted.

It is, in my opinion, important to remember that public trees are the one amenity that increases in value as it ages. Besides sustaining life on earth through photosynthesis, trees promote a sense of calm and well being. What better way to use our tax dollars? I urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,


George Osborne

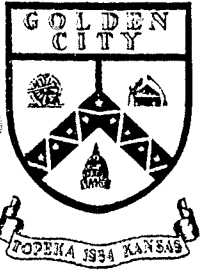


We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community

Energy & Natural Resources

attachment #7

2/15/94



CITY OF TOPEKA

Department of Parks & Recreation
215 E. 7th Street Room 259
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Phone 913-295-3838

Park Maintenance
201 NW Topeka
Phone 913-232-1484

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson.

FROM: Terry L. Bertels, City Forester, City of Topeka

SUBJECT: HB 2732 - Relating to "Tree City USA" tree planting grant program.

The purchase and planting of trees has always demonstrated an investment in, and a commitment to the future of a home site, business, city or state. The planting of trees has long been used as a means to revitalize a depressed area. Trees are added to home landscapes to improve aesthetics and increase property values or to enhance resale potential. Trees are added to business landscapes to create an attractive, comfortable environment that is inviting to customers. Trees are added to City Parks to provide shade for play or a cool quiet place for park users to escape to. Trees are a universal means used to make areas more attractive and improve vitality of all areas throughout a community. Passage of HB 2732 would be an opportunity for communities throughout the state to invest in their future and might act as a catalyst to stimulate dynamic economic growth in areas that would otherwise remain static.

Since the 1950's and the onset of Dutch Elm Disease in Topeka, our city trees have taken a beating. Literally thousands of trees had to be removed and are still being removed because of this disease. During this time the City of Topeka had no formal tree replacement program to offset the losses. Currently trees are removed because of hazardous situations brought on by advanced age, utility upgrades, road and sewer improvements, etc. Trees in our City Parks have reached a point where many of them are mature and in a state of decline. There are relatively few young trees in place to fill the void created when large trees need to be removed. The future result is a City Park (such as Gage Park here in Topeka) that is very low or devoid of trees.

In 1986 the City of Topeka recognized that it was being deficient in its commitment to the urban forest of Topeka. The city applied for and received "Tree City USA" status. This accreditation was achieved because the city operates an active division of forestry. The division of forestry had traditionally been used for the pruning and removal of trees in the City of Topeka. Since 1986 the role of the division has expanded to include tree planting whenever possible. Funds for purchases of trees have come in the form of Community Development Block Grants, Small Business Administration grants and operating budgets for major street improvement projects in Topeka. Passage of HB 2732 would allow the City of Topeka to utilize another source of funding to purchase trees. Trees would

Energy & Natural Resources
2/15/94
Auto. Deposit # 8

be planted in areas of the city that are in need of economic stimulus. A gesture of this sort by the city might provide confidence in individuals looking to purchase a home, might enhance an area to make it more attractive to business looking to expand or relocate, would increase property values in the area and would certainly give the residents of the area a lift to know that the city feels that their area is important enough to receive an investment to its future. Other benefits to the economic development of the city are more obvious. Nurseries in the area would see their sales increase. Topeka would benefit greatly in that there are a number of nurseries that would benefit by providing trees to outlying communities that have received "Tree City USA" status. Seasonal employees would need to be hired on sooner or be retained later in the season to assist in the planting of the trees. These trees will need to be cared for in the future requiring the hiring of additional personnel to assist in the maintenance program. Other benefits might not be so obvious but will add to the mix to make up an overall benefit to the cities that qualify.

This is a good return on an investment made. To encourage tree planting by cities that have shown a commitment to take care of their trees is to encourage the sound future of our communities and our state. To provide an incentive to other communities to seek "Tree City USA" status is ensuring good tree stewardship throughout the state and a promise of continued success in making Kansas a leader in the field of urban forestry. I urge you to approve HB 2732 and pass it on for consideration by the House. Thank you.

MANHATTAN

KANSAS



February 15, 1994

TO: House Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

FROM: J. David Mattox, City of Manhattan, Kansas

SUBJECT: HB 2732-Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting Grant Program

Trees outdo most people in the amount of work and benefits that they provide for the public good. Twenty-four hours a day urban trees are cooling air, buffering the wind and rain and cleaning pollutants from the atmosphere. Trees have been shown to lower fuel bills and increase property values. The beauty of trees does much to modify the harshness of the urban environment both physically and mentally.

The true value of trees to our cities must be realized if we are to assign them the proper priority, especially financially. Scientific study in the area of tree benefits/values yields some interesting figures. The presence of trees increases the market value of individual homes from 7 to 20 percent. Energy savings produced by the use of trees to provide shade and break winter winds have also been measured. U.S. Forest Service studies show that properly placed trees can provide energy savings of 20 to 25 percent for conventional homes. Properly planted and maintained street trees actually increase in value as they mature, with an estimated value of 75 to 500 dollars per tree.

In Manhattan, a good illustration of trees enhancing the local economy can be found at the Sunset Zoo. Exit polls have found that the amount of trees in the zoo are one of the major reasons that it is considered a nice place to visit. With zoo attendance being from 75 to 80 percent out-of-town patrons, it is easy to see this as an economic influence on the city. Similar comments have been received concerning the new treescape at our Twin Oaks Softball Complex, which also draws many out-of-town people. These people come to enjoy these facilities and provide significant economic impact through the patronage of a variety of local business usage.

The Tree City USA program is an important asset to the development of the urban forest resource. If we are to realize the many benefits of trees, then the public must be educated as to their importance and care. The Tree City USA program provides goals for good stewardship of trees and recognition for the communities that practice them. The exposure of Arbor Day programs does much to enhance people's perception of trees and their value. Additional funding for urban forestry programs such as the grants in the bill we are discussing can certainly be put to good use in this effort. Some communities will best utilize funds for the physical planting and maintenance of urban trees. This will provide attractive areas for visitors and citizens alike and enhance the community aesthetically and financially. Other communities that have tree planting budgets can use funding to assist in educating the public to the value of urban trees and how to best protect this resource.

CITY COMMISSION: Roger E. Maughmer, Mayor Sydney Carlin Helen G. Cooper Steve Hall Edna J. Stumel
CITY MANAGER: James R. Pearson 1101 Point Manhattan, Kansas 66502-5460 Telephone: (913) 537-0054

Energy & Natural Resources
2/15/94

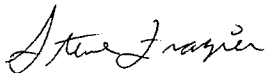
February 14, 1994

TO: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
RE: Regarding House Bill #2732

Liberal Kansas lost approximately 20 to 25% of the shade tree population in October of 1991. Most of these consisting of mature Elm trees. Although planting of replacement trees has been ongoing even before this tragedy, these trees are far from replacing the shade lost.

I feel by diverting some of the Economic Development funds to tree planting, several good results will develop. First the state of Kansas will become more comfortable for the residents whom already live here and become more appealing to travelers passing through. Second companies may actually be more interested in locating to Kansas communities because of enhanced parks and public spaces. Research indicates companies look at park and recreation opportunities when looking for areas to locate and or expand. Last but not least this will encourage non Tree City communities to become involved and participate in the Tree City program.

Thank you for your time and interest.



Steve Frazier, CLP
Park Superintendent
Liberal Parks and Recreation Dept.

Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #16
2/15/94

City of Garden City

My name is Alan Geier and I am chairperson of the Southwest Kansas Urban Forestry Council. I represent 22 counties and my hometown, Garden City. Traveling with me today are Steve Frazier from Liberal, and Neal Berry and Dave Penka from Dodge City.

Southwest Kansans are appreciative of the few trees that we have. They may not be the most desirable species around and they may have a tendency to lean to the north, but every tree is valuable in the horticulturally challenged west.

We don't have many Tree City USA's in our corner of the state, but the cities with that designation have had it for a long time. Dodge City has the distinction of being a charter member. They have been a Tree City for 18 years. Garden City has been a Tree City for 16 years; Ulysses, 14 years, Liberal, 11 years; and Topeka, 7 or 8 years. One of our Urban Forestry goals is to help the smaller communities become Tree City USAs. Mullinville has been a Tree City for three years, I believe Syracuse qualified this year, and Cimarron is trying to get organized.

In October of 1991, the Great Plains region was hit with a devastating quick freeze we call the Halloween Massacre. Twenty-five percent of our trees were damaged or killed. Since that time, the City of Garden City has put all our efforts and tax money into the removal of these dead trees on public lands and the street right-of-ways.

In the spring of 1992, 633 trees on city properties and right-of-ways were marked for removal. Another 100 trees were dead on the USD 457 school properties. We did not determine how many trees died on

City of Garden City

private residences. The majority of the Elms that died were 50 to 70 years old.

I purchased a home in March of 1992 and it had 12 trees on the property. Five of them did not leaf out. We need funding to replace these trees and many others like them. Trees increase property values. They bring an economic vitality to our cities. A recent marketing report was prepared for the Finney County Economic Development Corporation about the feasibility of some factory outlet stores locating on Main Street in Garden City. Things are looking favorable for this to happen. One of the factors that attracted these consultants was a recent planting of 75 trees on Main Street.

Streetscape, landscape elements, and people places are important in attracting investors.

The passage of this bill will help us replant the trees we lost. The local nurseries and tree care professionals will benefit from your actions. This will also inspire towns like Scott City, Meade, and Elkhart to form tree boards and write ordinances to qualify for this funding. Five thousand dollars worth of trees would make a big impact on a town the size of Lakin.

The tree is our earth's only renewable resource. The positive action you take today is a wise investment in the future of Kansas. I'm not going to reap the benefits of your actions, but my children will, and so will my grandchildren.

Thank you.

**City of
Dodge City**



CITY HALL
P.O. Box 880
Dodge City, KS 67801-0880
Phone: 316/225-8100
FAX: 316/225-8195

TO: House Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources; Rep. Carl
Holmes, Chairperson

FROM: Neal E. Berry and Dave Penka;
City of Dodge City and Dodge
City Shade Tree Commission

RE: HB 2732 - Relating to Tree City
USA Tree Planting Grant Program

Honorable Rep. Carl Holmes and Energy and Natural Resources Committee members. On are behalf of the City of Dodge City and the Dodge City Shade Tree Commission, Dave Penka and myself, Neal Berry, are here to express our support for HB 2732. This bill will make judicious use of lottery funds, thereby promoting economic development and enhancing the community through the simple act of planting trees.

In the early summer of 1991, the Dodge City Shade Tree Commission conducted its third Park Tree Inventory. As a result of this inventory, 7,535 were identified in the Dodge City park system with a value of \$1.5 million. As you may be aware, Western Kansas suffered a devastating freeze on Halloween of 1991. Since that time, Dodge City conducted a survey of its parks and of the city as a whole to determine the amount of trees lost. This survey showed that Dodge City lost 10% of its total tree population translating into approximately \$15.6 million in lost trees.

Figuring 10,000 trees lost out of 100,000, at an average diameter of 14 inches, 50% condition factor and 75% location factor, with a dollar value of \$27 per square inch.

10000 trees * ((7 * 7 * 3.14 * \$27.00) * 0.5 * 0.75) =

\$ 15,586,226.78 in lost trees

The actual removal costs will almost double this figure. Removal costs on this scale are expensive. This leaves few funds available for replanting.

Trees provide many benefits to people and the environment. Most are aware that trees convert Carbon Dioxide into Oxygen, fewer are aware of the economic impact trees have in the urban setting. Trees planted on the South and West sides of houses provide shade on a hot day keeping the house cooler and utility bills lower, trees increase property values, they also filter out pollutants, slow the wind, provide a screen, and much more.



*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #12
2/15/94*

This judicious use of lottery funds will promote economic development and community enhancement through the simple act of purchasing and planting trees. This simple act begins to snowball as nurseries, hardware stores, landscapers and tree care businesses, etc. are needed to purchase, plant and maintain the trees. Improved aesthetics promote the city and attracts other businesses to invest in the community.

I commend Representative Richard Alldritt for sponsoring this bill. This bill will be a boost to not only Dodge City and Southwest Kansas, but the State as well by providing short-term and long-term economic benefits to cities devastated by the Halloween freeze. It will also encourage other cities to become Tree City USA cities and thereby perpetuating the tree planting effort.

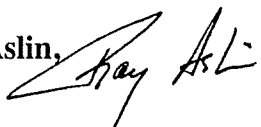


Cooperative Extension Service

State and Extension Forestry
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2798
913-537-7050
FAX: 913-539-9584
Postage Paid

February 15, 1994

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

FROM: Raymond G. Aslin, 
State Forester

SUBJECT: HB 2732 - Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting Grant
Program

I am Ray Aslin, State Forester, Kansas State and Extension Forestry with Kansas State University. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on HB 2732.

I want to say up-front, that I am here today to neither support nor oppose HB 2732. As you know, State and Extension Forestry is part of Kansas State University. Since this Bill is not included in the Board of Regents request for FY 1995 funding nor is it included in the Governor's budget request to the Legislature, I can not, as a representative of KSU, take an official position. What I can do, however, is provide you with information regarding State and Extension Forestry's experience with grant/cost-share programs to communities in tree planting and the impact such a program will have on our agency.

Tree planting is a very popular activity in communities across Kansas, both large and small. Many communities view tree planting as a means to improve their living and working environment. Urban and community trees provide many benefits including: (1) filtering the air we breath; (2) absorbing and removing carbon dioxide from the air (a major greenhouse gas) and locking it up in the formation of wood; (3) shading homes and buildings reducing the energy demands for cooling; (4) providing homes for urban wildlife; (5) helping reduce soil erosion and improving water quality in communities; and (5) beautifying our communities; making them more attractive to residents, potential industry and shoppers.

Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #13
2/15/94

House Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson
Page 2
February 15, 1994

Many communities do not have the financial resources to undertake tree planting projects on their own. They do, however, have the interest and volunteers to provide the labor in planting and long-term care. We discovered that financial support in the form of cost-share monies is the incentive many communities need to carry out needed tree projects that not only benefit those living in the community, but the state as a whole.

In 1991, Congress made a substantial commitment to support Urban and Community Forestry across the country. As part of the 1990 Farm Bill, they appropriated funds to support state Urban and Community Forestry programs through technical assistance, outreach to volunteers and providing cost-share assistance to communities for tree planting. For three years, State and Extension Forestry administered a cost-share program of \$25,000 per year to communities, requiring a 50% local match. We funded projects in 34 communities. Over \$124,000 of local support was leveraged. However, due to budget constraints in FY 1994, we had to eliminate the cost-share program.

In addition, in 1991, Governor Finney designated State and Extension Forestry to administer the Small Business Administration Tree Planting Program. In the past four years, we have awarded over \$579,000 in direct cost-share monies for tree planting projects in 71 communities without any of the monies being used to administer the program. Each community, in turn, provided a minimum of 45% local match. This program so far has leveraged \$508,000 of local funds.

Due to our extensive experience in administering these programs, State and Extension Forestry has learned how to effectively and efficiently administer cost-share tree planting programs to Kansas communities. However, because of increased demands on my staff to conduct mandated programs by both the state and federal agencies, we will need to utilize up to 13% of the \$401,150 proposed in HB 2732 to hire a staff person to administer the cost-share programs. This \$46,150 would be used for staffing, secretarial support, operation and travel.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of State and Extension Forestry regarding HB 2732.

ENR
18-2



League of Kansas Municipalities

PUBLISHERS OF KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL 112 S.W. 7TH TOPEKA, KS 66603-3896 (913) 354-9565 FAX (913) 354-4186

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

FROM: Chris McKenzie, Executive Director

DATE: February 15, 1994

RE: HB 2732--Urban Forestry Program

Thank you for the opportunity to appear on HB 2732, concerning the urban forestry program. Adoption and implementation of modern, comprehensive tree ordinances has been of concern to many city officials in recent years. A tree ordinance is one of the basic requirements to qualify for the "Tree City U.S.A." program. More importantly, a tree ordinance and program goes directly to the heart of one of the central purposes of a city, which is to maintain and improve the quality of life for the residents of the community. Among the more commonly cited reasons for enacting a comprehensive tree ordinance are the liveability of the city, the inherent enhancement of the community's appearance, air purification and noise reduction, and overall property value enhancement. Therefore, we believe HB 2732 represents an important first step towards improving the beauty of cities in Kansas.

While the amount of money is not great, it moves us in the right direction for improving the liveability and prospects for economic development in our cities. While trees may not initially appear to be an economic development tool, it has been our experience that the nicer and more liveable the community, the more likely the community is to attract economic development.

Whenever new business or industry is seeking new locations, one of the factors in the equation concerning where to locate is the appearance and ultimate liveability of the city. We believe that improving cities by the planting of trees helps beautify and improve our cities and this legislation moves us in that direction.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that the committee favorably report HB 2732 as a good first step in helping to beautify and improve the liveability of cities in Kansas and serve indirectly as an economic development tool.

Thank you for your consideration of the League's views.

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment # 14
2/15/94*

BEFORE THE HOUSE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Don Low

PRESENTATION OF THE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION ON
H.B. 2979

This bill was requested by the Commission to clarify the KCC's authority with regard to activities which might be undertaken jointly with other state or federal regulatory bodies. The language amending K.S.A. 66-106 was taken from Missouri statutes regarding the authority of its Public Service Commission to enter into cooperative agreements, receive and disburse contributions, conduct joint investigations or hearings, or issue joint orders.

This bill is aimed at several situations. In general, there has been national discussion of the desirability of regional regulation of electric utilities, especially with regard to transmission issues. More immediate possibilities relate to cooperative investigations or other activities with the Missouri Commission. The KCC staff has discussed the possibility of a future jointly-funded study regarding Wolf Creek decommissioning costs, which would allow for greater cost efficiencies by both Commissions. Also, if the KCC adopts Integrated Resource Planning rules, some coordination of efforts between the two state commissions with regard to the utilities regulated by both will be desirable.

Finally, the KCC has just finished a joint audit of Southwestern Bell's affiliate transactions, in cooperation with the other four Southwestern Bell state commissions and the FCC. Procedural questions about the ability of the respective commissions to share information and conduct joint audits delayed the audit for about a year. The clarifying statutory language proposed will help avoid those kind of procedural questions.

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #15-
2/15/94*



THE CITY OF ANTHONY

ANTHONY, KANSAS 67003

(316) 842-5434

February 14, 1994

Carl Holmes, Chairperson
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Representative Holmes:

We would like to express our support of House Bill No. 2732 which is to provide grants up to \$5,000 for tree planting projects to Cities that have been designated Tree City USA. Anthony has been a Tree City USA since 1985. We understand the monies for this program would come from the Economics Development Initiative Fund (EDIF) which are provided by the Kansas Lottery. Anthony would definitely appreciate the direct benefits of the monies from the Lottery which a number of cities, the size of Anthony, have not seen to date. This type of grant program would be a beneficial addition to the Kansas Tree City USA Program. It would provide an additional incentive for Kansas cities to become involved in the Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LaRue L Christy
LaRue Christy, Mayor

Marilyn Downing
Marilyn Downing,
Commissioner

Debra J. Hatfield
Debra J. Hatfield, Commissioner

Priscilla Goucher
Priscilla Goucher,
City Superintendent

Terry S. Ball
Terry Ball, Commissioner

Donald F. Heidrick
Donald F. Heidrick,
City Clerk/Administrator

Alden Major
Alden Major, Commissioner

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #16*

2/15/94

805 N. Jennings
Anthony, KS 67003
February 13, 1994

The Honorable Carl Holmes
Chairperson, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Mr. Holmes:

House Bill No. 2732, which is currently under consideration in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, calls for the provision of funds for urban forestry projects to cities which have been designated Tree City USA.

As you are surely aware, many Kansas communities experienced severe tree loss with the influx of Dutch Elm disease in the mid-1960's. Anthony, like so many other towns, was over-planted in elms and suffered severe losses.

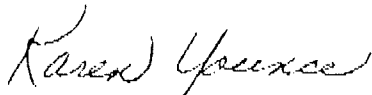
The City Commission in Anthony has funded and supported the efforts of the Tree Board to carry out an effective sanitation program and to re-plant a variety of trees. Our efforts have improved the appearance of Anthony and have instilled a new sense of pride among our residents.

We are proud of our achievements, but we are well aware of the continuing need for maintenance of our trees, both to preserve the healthy elms we still have, and to provide for the adequate care of our young trees. Also, planting new trees is still a top priority for Anthony.

The funding that H.B. No. 2732 would provide will help to keep up the good work started in many Kansas communities. Becoming a Tree City USA is a way that a town makes a commitment to an urban forestry program. EDI Funds could make the difference to many towns as to whether or not the program can be maintained or enhanced.

I urge the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to support the amendments to House Bill No. 2732.

Sincerely,



Karen Younce
Chairman, Anthony Tree Board

cc: Rochelle Chronister
Richard Alldritt
Patti Armstrong

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #17*

2/15/94



THE CITY OF OSWEGO

703 5TH STREET - P.O. Box 210
OSWEGO, KANSAS 67356
PHONE 316-795-4433

TO: House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson

FROM: Clarence Brown, Southeast Kansas Urban Forestry
Council Chairman; Oswego, KS Tree Board Chairman

SUBJECT: HB 2732- Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting
Grant Program

Mr. Chairman,

I believe establishing an urban forestry program through passage of HB 2732 is of utmost importance not only to the residents of the State of Kansas, but also to other citizens of our country. We can set an example for the rest of the country by taking this first step of how using monies collected through gaming revenues can be used wisely to help not only our residents, but help the environment and quality of life for our nation as a whole.

With the grants this bill would bring we will be able to upgrade existing parks and recreational areas. We will also be able to create new parks which will not only add beauty to the towns of Kansas, but which also can serve other useful purposes. It will help to stop the erosion of our farmland which is of great importance to our state. Also, wildlife such as some species of birds will come back which will help with reducing use of insecticides. It will possibly create jobs for our area through the flourishing of the nursery and tree care industry, and jobs created by our own cities and counties for qualified park caretakers.

Finally what I feel is one of the most compelling reasons for passage of this bill is the good it will do for our environment. The link between trees and the health of our environment is undeniable. We owe it to our children to leave this wonderful state in the best possible condition for them. By using gaming revenues responsibly we can show our children we are thinking to the future of the state to make it the best it can possibly be.

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to relay my feelings on this issue to you, and strongly urge you to support HB 2732.

Sincerely,


Clarence Brown
Oswego City Councilman

*Energy & Natural Resources
Attachment #18
2/15/94*

KANSAS TREE CITY USA TOWNS 1993

CITY	POPULATION	CITY	POPULATION
Abilene	6,242	Lawrence	65,608
Anthony	2,516	Lenexa	34,034
Atchison	10,656	Liberal	16,573
Belleville	2,517	Lindsborg	3,076
Beloit	4,066	Manhattan	37,712
Blue Rapids	1,131	Mankato	1,037
Bonner Springs	6,413	Marysville	3,359
Chanute	9,488	McPherson	12,422
Clay Center	4,613	Merriam	11,821
Coffeyville	12,917	Mission Hills	3,446
Colby	5,396	Mullinville	289
Concordia	6,167	Mulvane	4,674
Dodge City	21,129	Newton	16,700
Eastborough	896	Oberlin	2,197
Emporia	25,512	Olathe	63,352
Fairway	4,173	Osage City	2,689
Formoso	8,632	Oskaloosa	1,074
Ft. Leavenworth	38,495	Oswego	1,870
Ft. Riley	804	Overland Park	111,790
Ft. Scott	8,362	Oxford	1,143
Garden City	24,097	Parsons	11,924
Garnett	3,210	Phillipsburg	2,828
Goodland	4,983	Russell	4,781
Great Bend	15,427	Salina	42,303
Greenleaf	353	Sterling	2,115
Halstead	2,015	Topeka	119,883
Harper	1,735	Ulysses	5,474
Haven	1,198	Valley Center	3,624
Hays	17,767	Valley Falls	1,253
Herington	2,685	WaKeeney	2,161
Hesston	3,012	Wakefield	900
Hiawatha	3,603	Wamego	3,706
Hoisington	3,182	Wattsville	601
Junction City	1,348	Westwood	1,772
Lansing	7,120	Wichita	304,011
		Winfield	11,931

Energy & Natural Resources
 Edmund A. Vukobrat
 Attachment #19
 2/15/94